



## Flight of fancy

BASTIAN, 10 years old and a dreamer, is an outcast among his schoolmates, who regard such things as books and imagination with derision.

But Bastian remains undaunted.

In fact, he discovers a particularly fanciful world when he comes across a strange book titled *The Never Ending Story*.

It leads him into a fantastic world in which, it transpires, he is the real hero.

The film, based on the book, had a budget of more than \$20 million, most of it spent on superb special effects which bring to life magical and marvellous characters such as the benevolent Luckdragon and the gigantic Rockbiter, one of several characters travelling from the four

• Magical characters like Luckdragon (above) inhabit *The Never Ending Story*. At right, Bastian in a fantastic world.

corners of Fantasia to see the child-like Princess.

Their mission: to discover why their land and people are being eaten away by The Nothing, an all-consuming vacuum, and how they can save Fantasia.

Their only hope for salvation is a legendary warrior — Atreyu — a young boy the same age as Bastian.

In the end, only a human child (Bastian) can save the empire — but only if he believes enough in himself and his dreams.

It's a fabulously entertaining film (directed by Wolfgang Petersen of *Das Boot* fame) which will absolutely enthrall children and adults alike.

## Freeze Frames

WINNER of the recent TV WEEK-Warner Home Video VIP Protocol competition was Mrs L. Opuni, of North Carlton in Victoria. Her entry was selected from the thousands received and wins for her a fabulous VIP holiday for two in Hawaii.

THE results of the recently-discovered "colorisation" process, which uses computers to breathe new life into old black

and white films, will soon be seen on video. Frank Capra's Forties classic *It's a Wonderful Life*, starring Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore and Henry Travers, has just been "colorised" and released on video in America.

THE future of the Beta format continues to look shaky as Sony, pioneer and virtually sole proponent of the format, moves full steam ahead with the universally standard and compact Video-8 format. Latest news is that two major American distributors, Embassy and Universal, have signed deals to release their films on Video-8. Among the titles are box-office blockbusters such as *Witness* and *Beverly Hills Cop*.

## Nadine in the news

EVEN after winning a coveted TV WEEK Logie Award late last month for best performance by a juvenile, for her role in the mini-series *The Henderson Kids*, Nadine Garner (above right) remains ambivalent about her future.

The 15-year-old schoolgirl, now working on a key role in the Network 10 mini-series *My Brother Tom*, is not sure that she wants to make a career of acting.

Hailed by critics as one of Australia's most promising young talents, Nadine is keeping her options very much open.

"I don't know yet if my future will be in acting," Nadine told *Video Vibes*.

"It's great and I like doing it, but it's not the one thing I want to do."

"I want to do lots of things... to go away, do a degree in psychology, or work in a bar, or work on a bus... just do lots of things."

With two years of secondary school to go, Nadine is determined to stick with her education.

"I think somewhere along the line I'm going to have to just not do any work and just finish school. But this year is not too bad and I can afford to do a bit of acting."

Hot on the heels of her Logie win,